

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing 3-pentenitrile by hydrocyanating 1,3-butadiene in the presence of at least one Ni(0) ~~complex as a catalyst~~ comprising phosphorus ligands selected from mono- and bidentate phosphines, phosphites, phosphinites and phosphonites, ~~which comprises carrying out the process comprising conducting the~~ hydrocyanation in a loop reactor having at least one feed line and at least one discharge line, an external pumped circulation system, an inlet tube and at least one jet nozzle for driving the internal circulation.

2. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~which is carried out wherein~~ the hydrocyanation is conducted continuously.

3. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2, which is carried out~~ wherein the hydrocyanation is conducted in the liquid phase.

4. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the loop reactor is in flooded operation.

5. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4, wherein~~ claim 1, further comprising using one or more additional reactors ~~are used~~ for the hydrocyanation in addition to the loop reactor, in which case at least two reactors are connected in series, hydrogen cyanide is introduced into more than one reactor, and 1,3-butadiene and the at least one catalyst are introduced into the first of the reactors connected in series.

6. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the~~ claim 1, further comprising adding hydrogen cyanide ~~is conducted within~~ to the loop reactor in an internal inlet tube and the pumped circulation stream is conducted coaxially around this inlet tube.

7. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein 3-pentenitrile is withdrawn at the point in the loop reactor where the internal circulation stream has the longest circulation time before the mixing with the driving jet.

8. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7, in which claim 1,~~
wherein the 1,3-butadiene and/or or the at least one catalyst are metered into the external pumped
circuit circulation system.

9. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8, wherein claim 1,~~
further comprising cooling the inlet point for metering the hydrogen cyanide is cooled.

10. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9, wherein claim 1,~~
further comprising providing a postreactor having tubular characteristics [[is]] connected
downstream of the loop reactor.

11. (New) The process according to claim 6, wherein 3-pentenitrile is withdrawn at
the point in the loop reactor where the internal circulation stream has the longest circulation time
before the mixing with the driving jet.

12. (New) The process according to claim 11, further comprising cooling the inlet point
for metering the hydrogen cyanide.

13. (New) The process according to claim 12, further comprising providing a
postreactor having tubular characteristics connected downstream of the loop reactor.